



Find out what's wrong with this picture.

Page 3



Find out how this new book speaks the truth.

Page 8



Read how this Tiger racked up the points.

Page 11



Big blue inks eight on signing day

By Dairanetta Spain
 Sports Writer

Eight high school players, the fewest in the Ohio Valley Conference, signed national letters of intent to play for the Tennessee State University football team next season as the 2005 national signing period came to an end on Wednesday Feb. 9.

Last season TSU's coaching staff

signed an OVC best 37 players. This year, OVC champions, Jacksonville State University signed 30 followed by Murray State University's 28.

"This class is based on getting some playmakers, some (NCAA) Division I players," head football coach James Webster said. "Our next class will address specific needs."

This year's class consists of kickers

See "Recruits" on page 9

Alumna back to boost public relations

By Amber Simms
 Staff Writer

Returning to her alma mater, Tennessee State University Public Relations director has plans to enhance the public relations department.

Working closely with TSU's leadership on communications and marketing initiatives is one avenue Sherre Miller Bishop plans to use to create a more effective public relations department.

"I've spent much of my life putting people and resources together," said Bishop. "I look forward to implementing new strategies for advancing the TSU story, whether it is a new invention, a discovery by a faculty member, or an achievement by a student."

Bishop replaced the position Phyllis Qualls Brooks held for 14 years. Qualls Brooks left TSU to work for the state of Tennessee in the tourism department. Dana Kennedy served as interim public relations director before Bishop took the helm.

Bishop also plans to make some internal changes within the department.

"We do have a few vacant positions and are looking to fill them soon so that the department may operate at optimum efficiency."

Other improvements include expanding partnerships within the TSU family and the community and renovations to the office.

"The public relations office is often the first thing people see when visiting the campus. We want to make sure that the office is an accurate representation of the university. In fact, I'm really excited about collaboration between Home and Garden Television and TSU design students in renovating the office."

Bishop is a two-time graduate of TSU; she holds a master's degree in English and a bachelor's degree in communication and theater.

"From birth, my strength has been com-

See "Alumna" on page 2



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Rev. Jesse Jackson encourages the crowd to register to vote during the closing of his speech, while Brenton Powers holds registration forms for students.

Jackson influences students to register to vote

By Kamaria Mack
 Campus News Editor

Rev. Jesse Jackson, renowned speaker and civil rights leader, persuaded approximately six students to register to

vote during his lecture on Feb. 15 as the sixth speaker for the distinguished lecture series.

The lecture, held in Kean Hall at 1 pm, had approximately high campus par-

See "Jackson" on page 2

Campus News

Jackson registers students

Continued from page 1

ticipation that included a room full of students, faculty and staff. At the end of his presentation on the importance of being aware of black history, civil rights, and the backlash after slavery, he informed the audience of the importance of being an active registered voter and asked those who were not registered to come down to register.

"What's Jesse Jackson said about doing something as a people inspired me," said David Pipes, a sophomore biology major from Waukegan, Ill. "I felt that I would make a sacrifice not on the same scale as Dr. King but a sacrifice all the same."

Jackson asked for a show of hands of all those in the audience who were registered, he said if "your hand is not up, then please come forward." Jackson suggested that the government may try to take away black voting rights, so in order to prevent it from happening more blacks needed to be active registered voters.

As a supplement to his thoughts on the mentality of society, Jackson explained that involuntary slavery is illegal and asked the audience the defini-

tions of voluntary and involuntary slavery. He said that "if you volunteer not to write, read, count or think you are volunteering for slavery."

"Some people really don't apply themselves and they choose to fail," said Calvin Richardson, a freshman from Birmingham majoring in education.

Jackson also informed students of the importance of an education and for students to be aware that "you can't get a job off of last year's touchdown." He also suggested that need for black schools is not over and addressed the mandate of TSU having to attract more minority and non-traditional students per the Geier consent decree.

"TSU started off as an experiment designed to fail but succeeded," he said.

Amber Echols, a junior from Memphis who is majoring in nursing said, "I thought his (Jackson) presentation was excellent and he really addressed issues that were prevalent to the black community. TSU has succeeded and we have a come a long way and still have even longer to go."

Jackson received a bachelor's degree from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro and proceeded to organize sit-ins, found operation

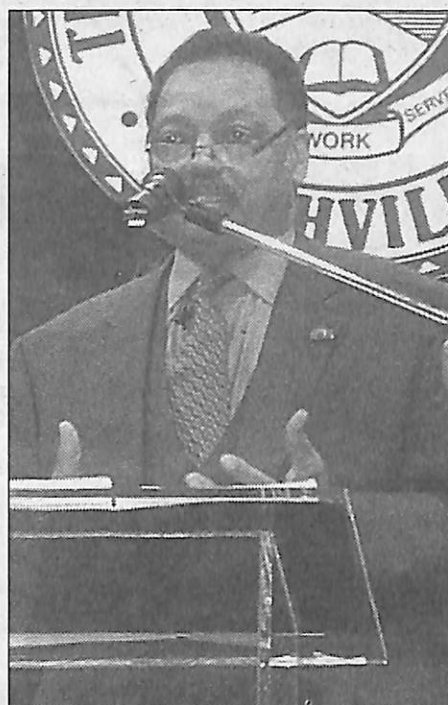


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Rev. Jesse Jackson addresses the issues of voluntary and involuntary slavery during his Feb. 15 campus visit.

PUSH, found the National Rainbow Coalition, and ran for the national presidency twice. He is married with five children.

"It was good to hear him share wisdom in person," Gary Moore, a senior from Memphis who is majoring in communications.

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"TSU started off as an experiment designed to fail but succeeded."

~Rev. Jesse Jackson

Alumna makes return to TSU

Continued from page 1

munications, I was the student who had the seat next to the teacher for talking too much," she said. "Eventually, my parents were glad to see me earning a living with my communications skills as

a TV news reporter, radio talk show host, and now a public relations professional.

Most recently, Bishop served as office manager of the Nashville branch of the NAACP. Her extensive background in television and radio includes

stints in Milwaukee, Raleigh, and Memphis. She is also a sought after public speaker and dramatist.

"Sherre Bishop is a skilled communications professional whose diverse experiences have prepared her well to lead TSU's internal and external public relations effort," said President James A. Hefner. "We are happy that she has accepted our offer to come on board. I am equally delighted to welcome an alumna back to TSU."

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"Sherre Bishop is a skilled communications professional whose diverse experiences have prepared her well to lead TSU's internal and external public relations effort."

~President James Hefner

Events Calendar

Today

General Assembly Mtg.
FPCC Rm. 210
7 p.m.

Black History Quiz Bowl
TE Poag Auditorium
7 p.m.

Bible Study
FPCC Rm. 217
7:30 p.m.

Tomorrow

"How Black Kin Eye Bee"
TE Poag Auditorium
7 p.m.

Wednesday

Windows onto the World
Avon William Campus Rm. 353
12:30 p.m.

Thursday

Men and Women Basketball
Games vs. Samford
Gentry Center
5:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Bible Study
LRC Auditorium
7 p.m.

Saturday

Men and Women Basketball
Games vs. Jacksonville St.
Gentry Center
5:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Corrections

The Meter regrets errors and continuously strives to improve.

Campus News

Music, media out of sync in PAC

By Tawana Tolbert
Staff Writer

Communication students at Tennessee State University complain that sharing the newly built Performing Arts Center is not a productive learning environment.

In the fall of 2003, the university spent 9 million dollars to build the PAC which houses the music and communications departments. Listening laboratories, studios for piano and instrumentation, theater which holds 400 and a recital hall which holds 226 are housed in the PAC.

"Instructors always complain that their lesson is interrupted by the piano or the singing in the next room," said Kimberly Waters, a secretary in the communication department. "They ask to be placed into another room or get the problem solved."

The classrooms are not soundproof.

"My teacher gets agitated because he has to stop his lessons to ask students in the next room to turn the radio off or



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Classrooms meant for communications are used to practice music which disturb regular media classes.

stop playing the piano during his lesson," said Danielle Sims, a work study student in the communications department. "I think there should be a set time for music students to practice so they would not interfere with lessons."

Sims declared instructors complain daily about the location of the classrooms in relation to the music

department.

Class scheduling and the use of the shared facility is organized by interim communication department head, Lawrence James and music department head, Robert Elliot.

"We share the classrooms, office areas, theater, recital hall, break rooms, copy room, and all other areas," Elliot said. "We consult almost daily about every use of the building, and we work together to try to best serve the interests of everyone involved."

Elliot said the administration currently has no plans to divide the building or otherwise rectify what faculty members and students continue to say is a problem.

"While some may point at the noise as being a possible distraction, I prefer to think of it as evidence of two active programs," Elliot said. "The synergy that results from having these two creative, performance-oriented programs in close proximity with each other is what will help us to continue to prepare generations of successful actors, singers, speakers, and musicians at TSU."

On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays while Comm 3020 is conducting its newswriting course in room 285, students are practicing the piano or singing in nearby rooms.

"Plans for the building called for soundproofing," said newswriting instructor Pamela E. Foster. "But plans were scaled back to cut costs, leaving students' learning distracted by ongoing loud noises. I look forward to administrators making it an academic priority to soundproof the rooms or separate performing and instruction classes."

Department heads have addressed concerns regarding the availability of theater teaching and music recording spaces by expecting the availability within two years.

"I've been lucky so far this semester," said communications instructor Michael Barnett. •

New technology to arrive at TSU library

By Marshall Latimore
Staff Writer

Innovative Interfaces, an integrated library system is to replace the Dewey system in the Daniel-Brown library.

Innovative Interfaces is Web-powered, JAVA-based, fully integrated with other libraries that use the system, personalized to ensure ease for the user, and customized to meet the needs of all types and sizes of libraries. It enables the server and network to automatically update software from the user's workstation.

"The year 2004 brought dramatic changes in the Library," said Director of Libraries & Media Centers Yildiz Binkley. "We would like to share the positive changes with our best customers."

Tennessee State University is the first Tennessee Board of Regents institution to use Innovative Interfaces. The state-of-the-art service is to be offered to students, faculty, staff, and communi-

ty-at-large.

The Nashville Public Library, David Lipscomb University, Trevecca University, University of the South, and

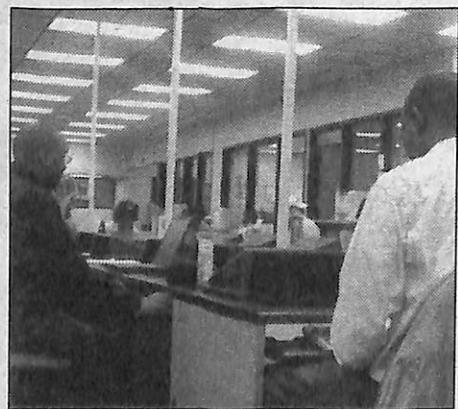


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Students in the library test-drive the new technology.

the University of Tennessee Law School and Health Sciences also use Innovative Interfaces.

The goal of the library upgrade is to

create a more technological savvy environment that is user-friendly.

"It's really good that TSU is for once first in line for much needed improvements," said David Houston a junior from Atlanta majoring in computer science. "It finally shows that [TSU] is finally making advances to realizing its popular clichés that students matter most and its commitment to excellence."

Additional applications for users include an Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) that enables the user access to place cancels and holds, file self-renewal items, conduct preferred searches, automatically notify of new material, broadcast searches, collection scopes where users confine searches to a subset of the database.

The system is to provide access to catalogues of all types of library materials and allow users to reserve items and rooms in the library for a specific.

The library management also has plans of adding an electronic resource

management tool for digital resource integration and license management, new library furniture for students and staff, a computer lab of 40 personal computers and 130 online databases containing full-text articles and books.

"I think [that] the changes in the library will be beneficial in equipping students with the tools needed for achieving academic excellence," Jamal Oldham, a senior from Clarksville, Tenn majoring in business management.

"Students usually do not know the resources available to them here in the Library. I want ensure them help is available online, through chat, or in person to handle any of their library needs," Brinkley said. •

Forum

What We Think

Tucker right about non-transparency

Since the presidential selection process' inception, everything from the candidates', biographies, resumes, and interviews have been visible to the Tennessee State University community. The Tennessee Board of Regents even decided to web cast all selection process meetings and the six finalist interviews, citing that TSU had a large national alumni base with interest in the presidential selection. Now, after all steps of the process have been open to the public, TBR Chancellor Charles Manning is to select the final candidate from calling all 20 advisory committee members, taking their comments under consideration, and

then recommending one name to the board of regents for the presidency.

The first problem? The last and most crucial part of the process is closed. There is no way to determine who each committee member votes for. The second problem? It does not matter who the committee members vote for in the first place. At the first presidential search meeting, Regent Maxine Smith of Memphis said the chancellor would make the final decision. Therefore, Manning could very well recommend a president of his own choosing.

Council woman Carolyn Baldwin Tucker recently wrote a letter to Manning

to express her dissatisfaction with the non-transparency of the selection process. But, she was not the first person to express discontent. Committee member Sonnye Dixon said early in the process that he wanted to keep the candidate pool large so that the committee members could refer back to them if necessary. Dixon also suggested the process' end was not visible enough.

We sincerely doubt the chancellor would recommend a final selection to the board that did not reflect the votes and comments of the advisory committee. If he decided to do that, what would be the point of having an advisory committee

initially? Though the chancellor could very well recommend who he wanted, he probably wouldn't do this because the community is already suspicious of the selection process.

While most of the process has been clearly visible, the end result is expected to take place behind closed doors and over telephone lines. If the chancellor wants to avoid confusion on who he recommends to the board, he should hold another meeting for the TSU community to decide who will succeed current President James A. Hefner.

Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2005

WINDOWS ONTO THE WORLD

U.S. Foreign Assistance:

**Discussion of the International Affairs Budget,
12:00pm-1:30 p.m.,**

**Tennessee State University,
Avon Williams Campus, 3rd floor Atrium,
330 10th Avenue North, Nashville.**

Panelists will discuss the importance of the International Affairs Budget and present success stories from their work around the world, sharing success stories of how U.S. International programs make a difference in Tennessee and abroad.

Please join us for a light lunch.

For more information contact us at 963-7154.

FYI:

Student ID required

All students who wish to use the facilities of the **Wellness Center** must have a valid TSU ID. If not, you will be asked to leave.

Campus News

Symposium brings historic case to TSU

By LaToya Smith
Staff Writer

On Feb. 8, The Student Affairs' department at Tennessee State University hosted the student development symposium and presentation series Linda and Cheryl Brown, daughters of the late Reverend Oliver Brown, of the Brown vs. Board of Education case in the Thomas E. Poag Auditorium.

Linda Brown began the presentation by asking the audience to sit back, relax, and reminisce with her to a time when her family had to live under Plessey vs. Ferguson doctrine of "separate but equal" for public education.

To provide historical background, there was an explanation of how Rev. Brown took his case to the NAACP and the case was then brought to the Federal Court.

"I had prior knowledge of the case, but it was better to get it from a closer source," said Rachel Spruill, a sophomore who is majoring in child psychology. "The presentation eliminated the myths and exposed the truth behind the case to help us better understand what was really involved and all the people that were part of the struggle."

Although the case failed on the Federal level, it was later brought to the Supreme Court arguing that psychological damage was brought on by segregation and segregation broke the development of strong positive educational progress among young Black children. With the help of famed civil rights

lawyer, Thurgood Marshall, the case appeared in the Supreme Court and won. Brown vs. the Board of Education ended segregation sanctioned by law.

"We were in the eye of the hurricane and wondered how it would all end," Linda said.

The case was named after Brown because he was the only male on the roster.

If my father was here at the time, I am sure he would have been a strong Civil Rights activist during the 60's," Linda said. "He stepped out of the witness stand and into the pages of history".

Cheryl referred to her father's life and urged the audience to appreciate the wider impact of Brown vs. Board of Education.

"The case is significant because it overturned Plessey vs. Ferguson in twenty-one states, defending the rights of African-Americans across the land," Cheryl said.

She also believes that American textbooks, classrooms across the coun-

try, and the Internet should provide a more accurate story of the Brown vs. Board of Education case.

"Many of these people are still alive and it is important that their stories be told as well," Cheryl said.

The Brown Sisters and mother have dedicated themselves to preserving the historic legacy of Oliver L. Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas case.

"It is important that students be exposed to these presentations because they include very successful and bright people who can serve as models and enlarge visions and aspirations," said James A. Hefner, President of TSU.

The Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research, and the Brown vs. Board of Education National Park in Topeka are landmarks that will continue to ensure that the legacy of Mr. Oliver L. Brown is preserved.

"The case is significant because it overturned Plessey vs. Ferguson in twenty-one states, defending the rights of African Americans across the land."

~Cheryl Brown

The Meter Mission Statement

The Meter's mission is to accurately and responsibly report the "highlights and lowlights" of Tennessee State University and its community so that we may foster positive changes in the world around us, while reflecting the university's multi-cultural student body.

Submission Requirements

The Meter invites submissions by all members of the Tennessee State University community. Opinions contained in submitted articles do not necessarily reflect the views of TSU faculty, students, SGA, or administration. Timeliness and clarity are factors in selecting material for publication. Materials must adhere to the following guidelines:

- a) All contributions must be typed, double-spaced (submitted on 3.5" disks or e-mailed) by Monday, and must include the writers name and title or classification.
- b) Opinions and letters should not exceed 500 words.
- c) The Meter reserves to the right to reject letters, articles, or ads without explanation and to edit others as necessary.

The Meter

The Measure of Student Opinion and Sentiment

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The Meter capitalizes the letter "B" in the word "Black" when it refers to people of African descent in accordance with the Oxford American and other dictionaries.

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Campus News

Tucker: Selection process not transparent

By Kamaria Mack
Campus News Editor

Some Tennessee State University community members disapprove of the presidential selection process citing it to be non-transparent.

Carolyn-Baldwin Tucker, chair of the TSU Community Supporters, Alumni and Friends Committee expressed disapproval of the presidential selection process through a letter to Governor Bredesen, Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor Charles Manning and various alumni and friends committee.

"I find it quite troubling that to learn that the actual selection process is not open and transparent," Tucker said in her letter to Tennessee State Governor Phil Bredesen. "The community and students should know exactly who the committee votes for."

Tucker expressed concern that only the chancellor will know each member's choice and no one will be able to corrob-

orate on who actually received the most votes.

According to Manning, a teleconference will be conducted with each board member to get their votes for each of the candidates. Each of the board member's votes will be counted and considered by the chancellor upon making the final selection to whom he will present to the board of regents for approval.

Tucker suggests that the level of credibility of the recommendation would be higher the collection of votes was in the form of an open meeting.

"I think that it should be more

open." Josef Robinson, a senior from Atlanta majoring in business administration. "His interaction has been limited and he should have been more vocal and visible."

Tucker concluded the letter with a question: "Will the decision of the Advisory Committee be the determining factor as to who will be the next President of Tennessee State University, or will the Chancellor in fact appoint the person of his choice?"

"I think that the community should know how the board feels," Bradley Campbell, SGA senior class representa-

tive. "The community should know what the chancellor is going to do in relation to what the direction the university is going."

Tucker suggests that holding a presidential selection that is not open and transparent leaves room for an incorrect appointment to the university. According to Tucker, one such appointment was made in the 1980s.

In 1985 Roy Peterson was made interim president of TSU. He spent less than a year in office before being replaced by Otis Floyd.

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"I find it quite troubling that to learn that the actual selection process is not open and transparent."

~Carolyn Baldwin Tucker

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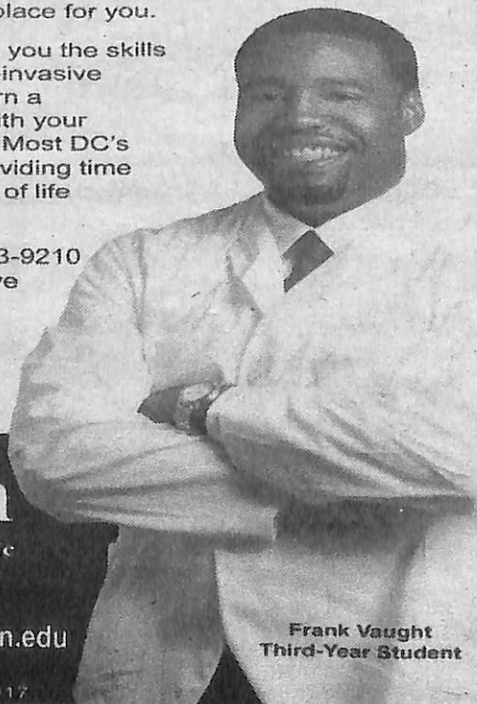


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Dr. Gloria Johnson, Chair
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Tennessee State University in the
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Arts & Entertainment

New book aims at informing girls

By Meridith M. Miller
A&E Editor

"He'll call as soon as he gets some free time."

"He's afraid of getting hurt again."

"He won't call me his 'girlfriend', but if he acts like we're together, isn't that good enough?"

"One day he'll realize how much he misses me and want me back."

Sound familiar? These are but few of the many fancies that float through a woman's head as she tries her best to make sense of her significant other's actions and validate her feelings in the process. For those women who have spent entire relationships trying to figure out their seemingly complex men and why they act the way they do and still end up with nothing, two authors have come up with the perfect solution to answer all questions and remove all doubt: He's just not that into you.

The new painfully truthful, yet comically enlightening book *He's Just Not That Into You, The no-excuses Truth to Understanding Guys* is the latest must-have relationship bible for single and dating women everywhere.

Written by Greg Behrendt, *Sex and the City* consultant and Liz Tuccillo, *Sex and the City* writer, *He's Just Not That Into You* came as an idea from a catch phrase in a *Sex and the City* episode that discussed how there are no mixed messages with men. Either they want you or they don't.

The popularity of the episode led Behrendt and Tuccillo to create a manual of scenarios of common problems that couples experience, and how to deal with them and make sure the patterns of mediocrity do not continue. The book offers all advice centered on the idea that a man is simply not that into a woman if he isn't doing certain things or acting in certain ways. Whether it is due to an absence of courage or a so-called pres-

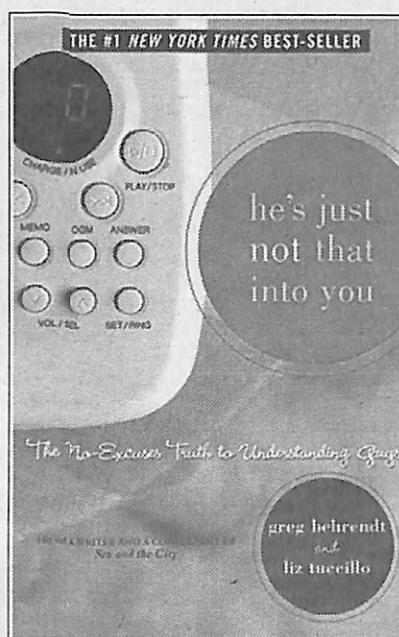


PHOTO COURTESY OF HBO.COM

Once the readers have opened their eyes, it's the first thing they see.

Literary Highlights

ence of respect for feelings, men find it almost impossible to just tell a woman that she's not the one. Thus, he leads her on through a series of awkward behaviors that she justifies with one of many excuses, all of which still leave her frustrated, confused and usually alone. Instead of wasting time trying to decode non-existing male messages, *He's Just Not That Into You* offers women honest information that is aimed at helping them recognize the bull in a relationship, let go, and move on to something and someone bigger and better.

Each chapter takes a different issue and explains how and why a man is just not into a woman if this issue is taking place in their relationship. Some examples include, Chapter 1 "He's just not that into

you if he's not asking you out", Chapter 2 "He's just not that into you if he's not calling you", and Chapter 3 "He's just not that into you if he's not dating you".

Once women understand how to recognize the signs, they can stop turning signs of blatant disinterest into, "He really loves me, but he needs some time alone."

While some readers may argue that the book's somewhat negative approach may be detrimental to a woman's self-esteem, others argue that the directness is liberating. Through careful delivery women are praised for their beauty, intelligence, talent, and strength. The aim of the authors is to get the reader to understand that she is wonderful, and that once she leaves men who don't want her alone, she can maximize her full potential and naturally attract the right man who will treat her how she deserves to be treated.

Overall, *He's Just Not That Into You* is an informative, witty, and eye-opening read. Any woman can relate to the material on some level, and even if she doesn't agree with the philosophy, she will no doubt begin to think twice about accepting less.

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106.7 flip flops from hip-hop to sports talk

By Chasitie S. Goodman
A&E Writer

Former R&B and hip-hop radio station Blazing 106.7 is now 106.7 The Fan, after switching formats due to reported bad ratings. The switch occurred on Dec. 23, 2004, two days before Christmas.

"Radio is a business," said Michael Vickey general manager of Cumulus Broadcasting's Music City branch which already owns one FM sports talk station

WTN Sports 99.7. "In a nutshell there was more of a demand for sports talk radio."

Cumulus also owns WQ2K 92 Q, WSM, The Wolf, WTN, Sports 99.7, and WRQQ Star 97.

"I hate the city had to loose a good hip-hop station," said Crystal Choates, a senior from Atlanta majoring in political science. "But if the ratings aren't good, I guess the change to sports talk is necessary."

According to Vickey only a few jobs were lost in the switch, and most people

who had a position with 106.7 already had second jobs with WRQQ 92 Q.

"I think that it (programming) should be even," said Tuneshia Cole, programming director for WTST, TSU's campus radio. "It is Music City, but not everyone is into music like that. I think that we should have a little bit of every thing."

Radio ratings are reported by Arbitron and are available in booklets that are published four times a year. Vickey alleges that the exact numbers for the hip-hop station, which was only the second FM one in addition to 101.1 The Beat, will not be available until the end of May.

"[T]he ratings do take a while to come in," Vickey said, "But we do have tons of research groups and focus groups that meet often and tell us what is going

on. There was not an outlet for sports talk."

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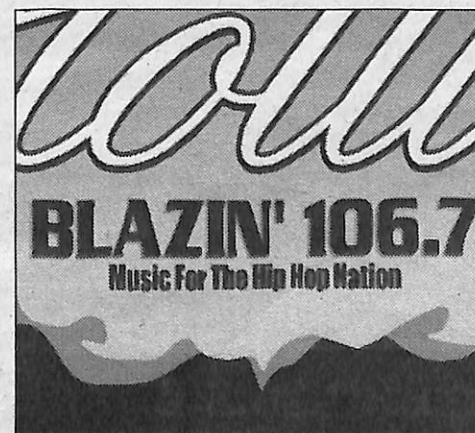


PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE.COM

Nashville and the surrounding listening area say good-bye to Blazin' 106.7

"I hate the city had to loose a good hip-hop station,"

~Crystal Choates

Sports

New recruits to meet specific team needs

Continued from page 1

Eric Benson of Rowlett, Texas and Micah Streiff of Decatur, Ga. Two Tennesseans, defensive back James Andrew of Nashville's Hunter's Lane High School, and defensive end Courtney Richardson of Memphis' Fairley High School, joined the team. Linebacker Nashon Bigham of Rutland High School in Macon, Ga. joins the team along with quarterback David Pringle from New Haven, Conn. and junior college tight end Jason Norris of Bayspring, Miss. Wide receiver Carlton Sanders also signed from Pompano Beach, Fla.

"For the most part the guys that will play will be the guys that played last year," junior quarterback Bryson Rosser said. "...We're not going to down play them just because they're freshman or new to the team."

"Until you've had a chance to go through a spring practice, go through a season, you can't really evaluate what your needs are," Webster said. "Once you do that, you can figure who can play, who can't, who you can win a game with, who you can win a championship with, and you can go from there."

Under the rules of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, only 63 scholarships can be offered at a time. With the majority of returning players being underclassmen, Webster and his staff searched for players who were able to significantly complete the needs of the TSU football program.

Last season's team had 13 seniors, two of which were All-American running back Charles Anthony and defensive end Paul Thomas. Joey Hudak also

departs the team after a season where he handled place kicking, punts and kick-offs.

"We lost crucial players such as Charles Anthony," Rosser said. "We were inexperienced in some spots. We will now have a more experience team this year."

Offensive line and recruiting coordinator, Darryl Bullock, said, "The big thing that Coach Webster was looking for was quality over quantity. He was not overly concerned about what position that young man was, he was concerned that the young man could make Tiger football better. We are more so concerned with discipline. We wanted to know if the young man is disciplined, not perfect; but is he disciplined and does he have strong character?"

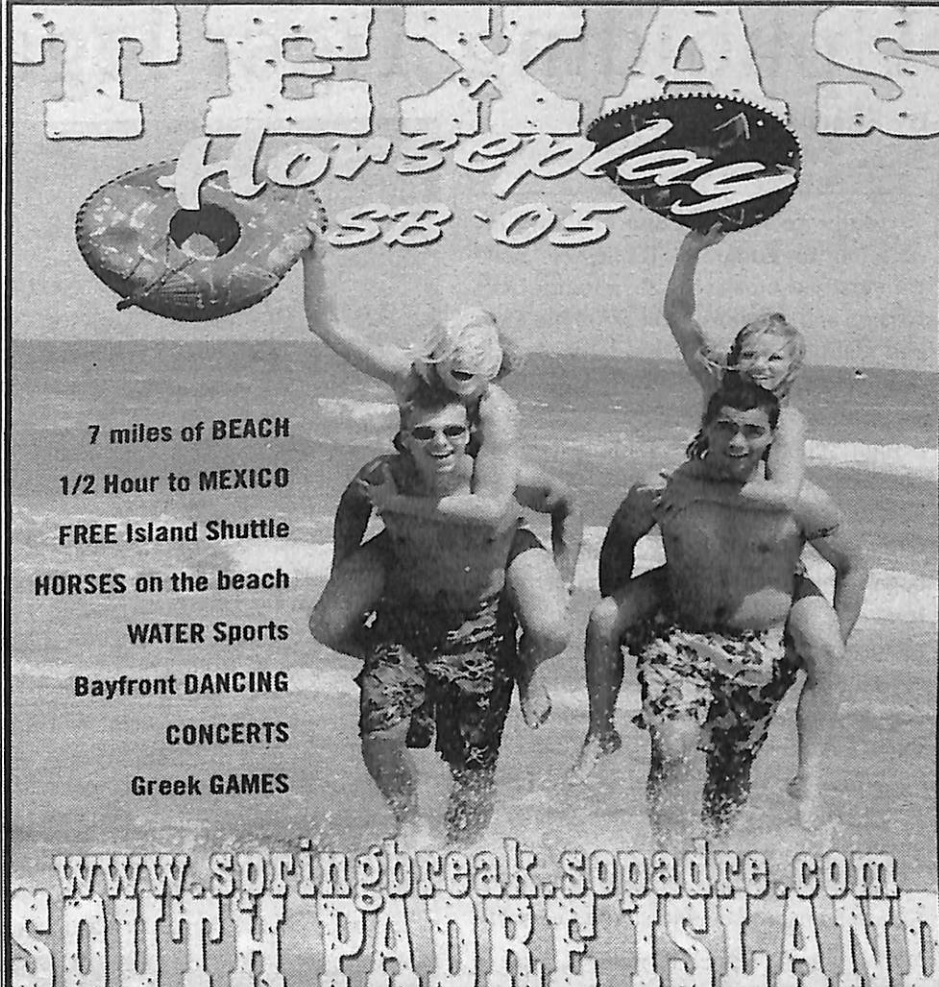
Sophomore running back Maurice Young said he feels good about this year's class. Young finished the 2004 season with 31 yards on 12 rushing attempts behind Anthony who racked up 1,739 yards and 14 touchdowns.

"I feel good about who we brought in," Young said. "We can't recruit 37 every year, but the eight that we brought in this year are on the same level as the recruits (2004 recruiting class) we brought in last year and play wise that's a good thing."

The 2005 Tigers first game is scheduled for Sept. 3 at the Seventh Annual John A. Merritt Classic against the Alabama A&M University Bulldogs.

"They had choices," Athletics Director Teresa Phillips said. "We've got a lot of young people on the team. The recruiting was successful."

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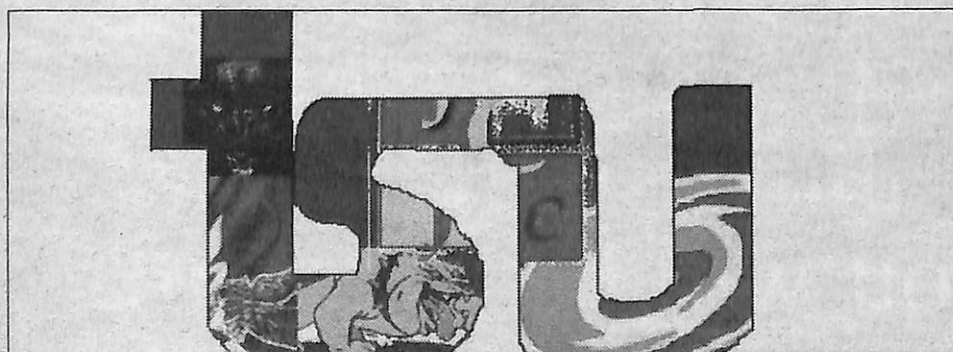


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GRAPHIC BY DESHANEE MINER

Though all the recruits are from different high schools, they will come together to make something bigger and better. The various logos of the recruits are shown here to form the TSU logo.

Sports

Upholding Tiger legacy still holds promise

By Sheena Hamilton
Sports Writer

After years of second guessing his decision to come to Tennessee State University, Ahmaad Smith, a senior from Atlanta and a defensive back on the football team, said he still has hope that he can uphold his family legacy here.

Smith, who was highly successful as a high school basketball player, didn't play organized football until his senior year at Riverwood High School. That is when schools like TSU immediately began to recruit him to play on the gridiron, but recruiting didn't mean much playing time.

"I do have some regrets," Smith said about choosing TSU. "...Although I know I am a superior athlete, I have not been able to really play since freshman year. When I see Marquette on TV, I always think what if..."

Smith was a McDonald's All-American candidate and said he verbally committed to Marquette University for basketball during his junior year of high school. But with hopes of avoiding basketball conditioning, he decided to play college football instead.

Smith's father, John, played wide receiver from 1974-1979 at TSU and is one of the school's all-time leading receivers in yards and receptions. His godfathers, Larry Kinnebrew and Richard Dent, both hold records in yards per carry and sacks, respectively. Both also have played in the National Football League, with Dent being named MVP of the 1985 Chicago Bears Superbowl XX team.

"Ahmaad seems to be out of the box," said Dedria Jackson, senior majoring in speech communication and theater from Atlanta. "He is a really cool and laid back person off the field and mingles outside the football team, but he is passionate on the field and that passion is important in whatever form it comes."

"He is a high-spirited person who loves the game of football and enjoys competition," TSU defensive coach Randy Fuller. "I don't personally know of any example of Ahmaad initiating an altercation, but I know when I hear a rumble involving one of his teammates he is not going to be too far away."

Only one representative from a historically Black college, Hampton University's defensive end Isaac Hilton,

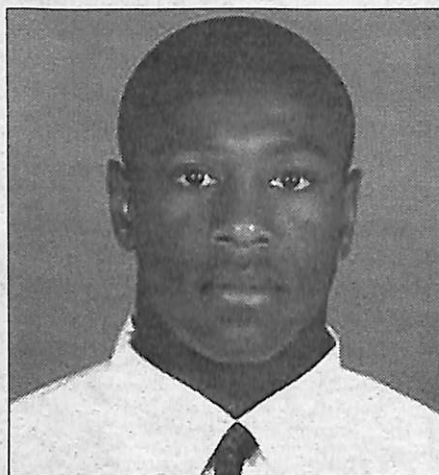


PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

Ahmaad Smith

was drafted in the 2004 National Football League's draft among 255 college players overall were selected.

Odds like these make some players at HBCUs hunger more intensely for the chance to shine on the field and be seen by the pros. Since the 2000 season, zero

players have gone to the NFL from TSU, and Smith said he is eager to get his behavior on the right track and become a part of the TSU legacy to which his father, godfathers and others so richly contributed.

"There are several students who follow in the footsteps of parents and siblings," said Michelle Viera, director of alumni relations. "We love that because it only builds on our rich tradition."

Chris Johnson, a red shirt freshman wide receiver from Nashville, also has a significant family legacy at TSU. Johnson is the younger brother of C.J. Johnson, who started at wide receiver from 2000-2003. The older Johnson is now the TSU's all-time leader in receiving yards. He has now handed the No. 5 down to his younger brother as he now plays with the National Arena Football League's Chicago Rush.

"I am happy he made a decision that pleases him," the older Johnson said of his younger brother. "Once he gets his

speed right he has the potential to break all of my records and I really want to see that happen."

The younger Johnson had 42 catches, 710 yards, and 10 touchdowns during his senior year at Nashville's Glendale High School and considered going to the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Tuskegee University, and Morehouse College before deciding to follow in his brother's footsteps. He said his decision was mostly based on the family atmosphere of TSU, the attention to academics and the overall success of the team in comparison with other Black schools.

"He is the only father figure I have ever known," said the younger Johnson of his older brother. "He is my toughest critic and my biggest fan. That is why I so deeply value his opinion. I will never regret choosing TSU because I have a point to prove and I am going to prove it. I know TSU is the place to do that."

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Tiger Trivia:

What football player is Tennessee State University's all-time leader in total offense for a single season?

See answer on tsumeter.com.

Men's hoops miss two road shots

The Tigers (11-15, 6-6 OVC) came up short on a two game road trip to Ohio Valley Conference foes Eastern Illinois Panthers (10-13, 5-7 OVC) and the Southeast Missouri State Redhawks (13-10, 8-4) during the week of Feb. 6-12.

TSU lost to EIU 82-61. The Panthers were led by freshman guard Bobby Catching and senior forward Aaron Patterson who each scored 15 points. Catching shot three of four from three-point range and added four rebounds. EIU shot 50 percent from the field and out rebounded TSU 49-41.

Sophomore guard Bruce Price was the top scorer for the Tigers with 13 points and junior forward Kareem Grant added 12 points. Junior forward Eric King led all players with nine rebounds in addition to his 10 points.

Tiger Briefs

In an 85-68 loss to SEMO, the Tigers allowed four Redhawk players to score in double-digits. Senior forward Reggie Golson scored 18 points while leading SEMO in scoring. Sophomore guard Terrick Willoughby, senior forward Dainmon Gonner and senior guard Derek Winans each added 16 points.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

Senior center Rod Flowers dropped 16 points on SEMO.

and senior forward Roshaun Bowens contributed 10.

The Tigers' final two games of the regular season are this week against Samford University and Jacksonville

State University, Feb. 24 and 26, respectively.

Lady Tigers split OVC road trip

The Tennessee State women's basketball team (7-16, 4-8 OVC) won an Ohio Valley Conference road victory against the Eastern Illinois Panthers (9-14, 2-10 OVC) 68-59 but dropped a match with the Southeast Missouri Redhawks (17-6, 11-1 OVC) 74-52, Feb. 10 and 12.

The Lady Tigers stormed back to take a 16-point second half lead after trailing the Panthers 31-29 at halftime. Four TSU players scored in double-digits led by senior forward/center Kendra Bailey's 21 points. Senior guard Quancenica Fletcher scored 11 points and senior guard LaKisha Clay and senior forward LaToya Clay added 10 points each.

EIU was led by senior center Pam O'Connor. She scored 16 points and



PHOTO COURTESY OF TSUTIGERS.COM

Senior guard Quancenica Fletcher had 11 points in a win over EIU.

pulled down three rebounds.

SEMO's Lady Redhawks extended a 10-game winning streak with its 74-52 win over TSU. Junior guard Brandi Russia and senior center Chandra Brown scored 21 and 20 points, respectively.

Fletcher and Bailey led Tiger scorers with 16 and 14 points respectively. Bailey added eight rebounds to her 50 percent shooting from the field.

The Tigers' final two games of the regular season are against Samford and Jacksonville State Universities Feb. 24 and 26.

Rosser is OVC student-athlete honoree

Tennessee State junior quarterback Bryson Rosser was selected as the Ohio Valley Conference's student athlete of the week Feb. 10.

The Hackensack, N.J. native, tutors at local schools, serves as a member of TSU's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and is an elementary education major.

Rosser finished the 2004 season eighth in the OVC in total offense averaging 128.7 yards per game. He also had 10 touchdown passes.

Compiled by Eddie R. Cole Jr. •

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